

MR. CAMERON, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 appointing people, sometimes, with no experience of that
2 particular department. And I think that's been
3 consistent ever since we've been in the parliamentary
4 system. So the Minister of Labour would be no different.

5 What I would expect the Minister of Labour to do --
6 and, of course, then the Premier appoints the Deputy
7 Minister of Labour too. So the Premier appoints the
8 Minister of Labour and the Deputy Minister of Labour.
9 What I would expect them to do is, of course, when you go
10 to the Department, at least what I've always done, was to
11 get yourself up to speed as quickly as possible -- the
12 general information about the department. There's always
13 briefing books prepared for everyone; I know that for a
14 fact. You look at the legislation you operate under.
15 You start understanding your divisions, what the
16 responsibilities are for each division. You would have
17 meetings with the heads of those divisions. And to get a
18 sense of what's going on.

19 Q. Let me crystallize it: Let's talk about Westray
20 specifically. How much in control of or aware of Westray
21 should the Minister of Labour have been to be properly
22 exercising or discharging his responsibilities?

23 A. You have to be careful that the Minister, the
24 political person that really doesn't come with a whole
25 lot of knowledge, that he doesn't get too involved and